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25X1

6 November 1963

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CENTRAL

INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

*USSR-Berlin: (The release of the US convoy at Marienborn and the failure to hold up British and French convoys of nondismountable size underline Moscow's desire not to risk even a limited military confrontation.)

(The Russians are known to have acquired details of Allied plans for responding to interference with convoys, and probably believed that action to put these into effect was already under way on 5 November.)

(There have been no indications of any unusual measures being taken by the Soviet forces in East Germany or East German Army units, except for the deployment of Soviet personnel and vehicles in the immediate area of Marienborn.)

(Soviet leaders probably feel confident that this latest incident, together with the prospect of future incidents along the Autobahn, will underscore the urgency of political negotiations. They would hope at least to involve the Allies in talks on access controls and possibly on broader issues relating to West Berlin's status.)

(In this light, Soviet authorities probably will continue harassment of selected Allied convoys to demonstrate the wide gap which exists between their criteria for processing convoys and the Allied "harmonized procedures.")

(In his talk with Secretary Rusk on 4 November, Soviet Chargeé Kornienko contended that there had been)

(an "agreement" that troops will dismount from convoys of "more than five" vehicles. During last month's incident, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Zorin took the same line with Ambassador Kohler.)

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Syria: The Baathist regime's socialist measures and its purges of non-Baathist military and civil servants are rapidly antagonizing important elements of Syrian society.

Syria's influential upper and middle classes have been alienated by the regime's recent attack on the "bourgeoisie" and by its declared intention to eliminate private medical practice, to "collectivize" farming, and to develop worker administration of industry. They had already been offended by earlier restrictions on private enterprise and by a recent reduction in government salaries.

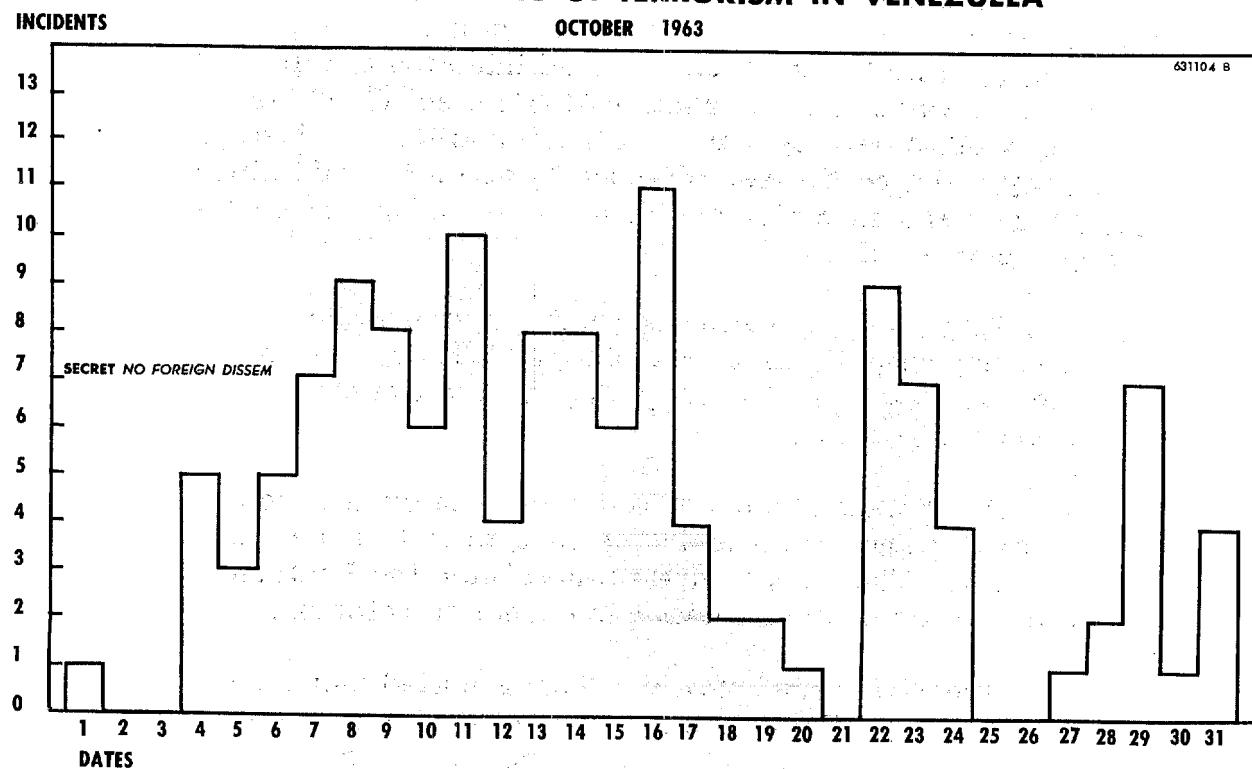
Although the regime is making a strong bid for the support of Syria's peasants and workers, these elements have traditionally played only a minor role in Syrian politics.

A substantial number of well-educated and technically trained Syrians are seeking ways to leave the country. Their departure could cripple the Baathist effort to implement social and economic reforms.

There is no indication that disgruntled members of the upper or middle classes are forming an effective, organized opposition to the regime. The extensive purging of non-Baathist army officers, however, has alienated another important group which could pose a serious potential threat to continued Baathist rule.

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REPORTED INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM IN VENEZUELA



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NOTES

Cambodia - South Vietnam: Cambodia apparently is in no hurry to renew diplomatic relations with South Vietnam despite the overthrow of the Diem regime. Prince Sihanouk has imposed several conditions for recognition, including South Vietnam's cessation of border violations, discontinuance of support for anti-Sihanouk Cambodian exiles, and payment of a nine-year-old debt claim. Sihanouk probably also wants to see whether the new Saigon government can muster popular support against the Viet Cong.

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Venezuela: The sabotage of the Creole Petroleum Company's pipeline on 4 November is the most spectacular of the recent terrorist acts perpetrated by the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN). It is the eighth time in 18 months that this pipeline has been bombed. President Betancourt's early October decision to augment police forces with army units has succeeded in reducing terrorism in Caracas, but FALN units may now be prepared for increased attacks on outlying oil installations, where government security measures are less effective.

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Italy: President Segni is expected to announce a prospective successor for Premier Leone about 10 November. Christian Democratic Party secretary Moro is the front runner, but Segni may make another initial choice in an effort to block--or at least delay--Moro's plan to form a government that would include the Socialist Party. If Moro is chosen, the US Embassy believes the results of his efforts will probably be known by the third week of November.

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Indonesia: The athletic Games of the New Emerging Forces (GANEFO), to be held 10-22 November in the Soviet-built stadium in Djakarta, are shaping up beyond Sukarno's expectations. Initiated after Indonesia was expelled last year from the International Olympic Committee, GANEFO has succeeded in attracting participants from approximately 40 of 53 invited countries, including a large number of Latin American countries as well as 670 Communist Chinese, [only about half of whom are athletes.] The US Embassy reports that arrangements for the games have occupied every arm of the Indonesian Government.

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